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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/718,359

11/20/2003

Vadivel Ganapathy

275.00080101

3660

26813

7590

03/09/2007

MUETING, RAASCH & GEBHARDT, P.A.

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EXAMINER

PAK, MICHAEL D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1646

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/09/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/718,359

Applicant(s)

GANAPATHY ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Pak

Art Unit

1646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12,13,20,21,27,28,36,45,47,49,50,57-59 and 76-84 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21,57-59,76 and 77 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12,13,20,27,28,36,45,47,49,50 and 78 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                                            | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :12-8-06; 1-18-06; 1-28-05; 3-12-04.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicant's election of Group II with traverse in the reply filed on November 30, 2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that it would not be search burden. This is not found persuasive because the groups are classified separately.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101 and 35 USC § 112***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 12-13, 20, 27-28, 45, 47, 49-50, and 78-83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is not supported by either a substantial and specific asserted utility or a well established utility.

The claims are directed to transporter. The specification as filed does not disclose or provide evidence that points to a property of the claimed transporter such that another non-asserted utility would be well established. The specification on page 3 disclose the asserted utility of using the claimed transporter for citrate regulation. However, there is no nexus between the peptide claimed and the treatment of the

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diseases because the disorders are associated with other transporters which have different function and structure from the currently claimed transporter. Thus, the treatment of the disease lacks substantial utility because further research to identify or reasonably confirm a "real world" context of use is required. Any utility of the antibody directed to the peptide protein or other specific asserted utility is directly dependent on the function of the transporter protein. A circular assertion of utility is created where the utility of the protein is needed to break out the circular assertion of utility. The method of using the transporter polypeptide does not have well established utility because different transporters would have different functions and the skilled artisan would have to determine the function of the transporter. The claimed polypeptides do not have substantial utility because the skilled artisan would need to prepare, isolate, and analyze the transporter protein in order to determine its function and use. Therefore, the invention is not in readily available form. Instead, further experimentation of the receptor protein itself would be required before it could be used. The disclosed use for the nucleic acid molecule of the claimed invention is generally applicable to any nucleic acid and therefore is not particular to the nucleic acid sequence claimed. The vectors, host cells, and the process of expressing the protein do not have utility because the nucleic acid without utility is needed to practice the inventions. The specification as filed does not disclose or provide evidence that points to a property of the claimed protein such that another non-asserted utility would be well established.. The polypeptide lacks substantial utility because further research to identify or reasonably confirm a "real world" context of use is required. Thus, the asserted utility lacks

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substantial utility because further research to identify or reasonably confirm a "real world" context of use is required. *Brenner V. Manson* 383 U.S. 519, 535-536, 148 USPQ 689, 696 (1966) stated that "Congress intended that no patents be granted on an chemical compound whose sole "utility" consists of its potential role as an object of use-testing ... a patent is not a hunting license." *Brenner* further states that "It is not a reward for the search, but compensation for its successful conclusion."

Claims 12-13, 20, 27-28, 45, 47, 49-50, and 78-83 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Specifically, since the claimed invention is not supported by either a substantial asserted utility or a well established utility for the reasons set forth above, one skilled in the art clearly would not know how to use the claimed invention.

3. No claims are allowed.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Pak whose telephone number is 571-272-0879. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Nickol can be reached on 571-272-0835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*Michael D. Pak*

Michael Pak  
Primary Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1646  
1 March 2007